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Contributors

Westview Staff

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Contributors' Notes

Jack Barry grew up outside Boston, Massachusetts. After years of manual labor and hitchhiking around the United States, he surrendered to his cultural legacy, graduating *magna cum laude* from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst in 1989. He now does manual labor and writes, commuting year-round from a tree house above a beaver pond in western Massachusetts.

Don Coldsmith has written more than thirty books, 150 magazine articles, and 1,300 newspaper columns over the last twenty-six years. The bulk of his fiction is in a series of historical novels, the *Spanish Bit Saga* (Bantam/Doubleday) about the Native Americans of the Great Plains beginning with the earliest European contact. There are now more than six million copies in print, as well as British, German, and French editions. Oklahoma University Press will publish upcoming new titles of the saga. Coldsmith is a past president of Western Writers of America, and has taught in the Division of English, Emporia State University. He has been a nominee five times for the Western Writers' Golden Spur Award, and won the Spur for best original paperback of 1990 for *The Changing Wind*. He was chosen Distinguished Kansan of 1993 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas and received the Edgar Wolfe Award for lifetime contribution to literature in 1995.

Earl Maxwell Coleman has published prose in *Esquire*, *Fiction*, *Hawaii Review*, *Talking River Review* and *New Writers 10*. His poetry has been published in *Amelia*, *The Cape Rock*, *Chaminade*, *Fuel*, *Light*, *The Lyric*, *Skylark*, *Small Pond*, and others. His short story "Weight and Weightless" was nominated for this year's Pushcart Prize.

Robert Cooperman's second collection, *The Badman and the Lady*, is forthcoming from Basfol Books. His work has appeared in *The Centennial Review*, *Cimarron Review*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*. His first book, *In the Household of Percy Bysshe Shelley*, was published by the University Press of Florida.

Richard Dixon lives in Norman, Oklahoma. He has spent the last thirty years teaching school, the last fifteen of those as a high school teacher of learning disabilities and as tennis coach. His published work is included in anthologies of poetry and fiction of the Individual Artists of Oklahoma, as well as various other anthologies and chapbooks.

John Donley was born in Weatherford, Oklahoma in September of 1927. He was reared in the Arapaho community and graduated from high school there. He served two years in the Army and then attended the University of Oklahoma for six

years, receiving a law degree in 1954. He was the Custer County Attorney and Assistant County Attorney for six years, and practiced law in Clinton until 1967, when he moved to Weatherford and established his office, where he still practices. He was the chairperson of the Cabin Committee which restored and moved the historic Blair cabin during Weatherford's Centennial in 1998. He is an active member of Weatherford's Museum Committee.

Lee Fennell grew up in Oklahoma City and often visited her paternal grandparents in the panhandle town of Hooker. Before entering the MFA program at the University of Virginia as Henry Hoyns Fellow in fiction, she practiced law for several years. She has previously been published in two law reviews and has a short story forthcoming in the *Antietam Review*. She currently lives in Charlottesville, Virginia with her husband and three dogs.

John Gery's collection, *The Enemies of Leisure*, received a 1995-96 Critic's Choice Award in Poetry and was selected as a Best Book of 1995 by *Publisher's Weekly*. He teaches literature and creative writing at the University of New Orleans and the Ezra Pound Center at Brunnenburg Castle, Italy.

Joan Cusack Handler's work has appeared in *Poetry East*, *Agni*, *Feminist Studies*, *Madison Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, and *Wisconsin Review* among others. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 1993, 1995, and 1996. She was the first prize winner of the 1992 Chester H. Jones and Gloucester County Competitions. She is a member of the advisory board of the Frost Place in Franconia, New Hampshire and the coordinator of the *Presenting Poetry and Prose* reading series at the John Harms Center for the Arts in Englewood, New Jersey.

Tom Hendrix is a poet, freelance photographer, and song writer. Tom and his wife live at Lake Benton in Central Texas. He has authored two poetry chapbooks, *Love Brackets* and *Find Me a Sand Dollar*. His poetry has been published in various books of poetry, literary journals and magazines, including *Poetry in Motion*, *New Voices*, *Potpourri*, *Oatmeal and Poetry*, and *Poetic Page*.

Eileen Hennessy holds an MA in creative writing from New York University. She is a Ph.D. student in the Arts and Humanities Education program at NYU. She began her professional career as a translator of books but is now an adjunct associate professor in the translation studies program at NYU. Her work has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The New York Quarterly*.



Ray Johnson has published two novels: *The In Vitro Madonna and Disappearances*. He also wrote the screenplay for the movie, *Texas Tall Man*. He lives in Clovis, California and is enrolled in the master of fine arts program at Fresno State University.

Helen Maxson is an Associate Professor of English at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Her publications include critical essays on Virginia Woolf, Oscar Wilde, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Edgar Allan Poe, as well as several personal essays. Raised in New England, she has lived in Oklahoma for nine years and, as a result, is coming to see Robert Frost in a new light.

Walter McDonald's latest book is *Counting Survivors* (University of Massachusetts Press). Two other books are *After the Noise of Saigon* (University of Massachusetts Press) and *Night Landings* (HarperCollins). He has published fifteen collections of poems and one book of fiction for presses such as University of Pittsburgh Press, University of North Texas Press, University of Massachusetts Press, Ohio State University Press, Spoon River Poetry Press, and Texas Tech University Press. He has published more than 1,600 poems in journals and collections, including *American Poetry Review*, *The American Scholar*, *The Antioch Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Nation*, *New England Review*, *New York Review of Books*, *The Ohio Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Shenandoah*, *The Southern Review*, *Southwest Review*, and *Westview*. His awards include three National Cowboy Hall of Fame's Western Heritage Awards, two National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships, and four Texas Institute of Letters Awards.

Vonda (Ruckman) McPhearson was born in Hydro, Oklahoma. Her roots in Weatherford extend back to before Weatherford was established; her grandmother homesteaded on a farm north of town. She has been devoting her time to the preservation of the history of this area. She has been involved with *Weatherford Families Past and Present* and is currently working on the Hydro history book which will be out in April, 1999. She is president of the Western Plains Weatherford Genealogical Society, a member of the Museum Committee, and is a member of the Cabin Committee which was instrumental in moving a 100-year-old cabin into Weatherford in time for the Centennial Celebration. She was the chairman of the project to inventory the cemeteries in Custer County and get them into book form.

Devorah Namm has a Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Pittsburgh. Several of her plays have been produced, and it has only been recently that she has written poetry. Currently, she is the vice president of Learner Services at Thomas Edison State College.

Kim Pankhurst is a wife, mother of four, English Education major at SWOSU, and artist. Prints for *Sedona Trail* and other works are available at 430 N. Randlett, Hobart, Oklahoma 73651.

Billie Preston is a retired teacher and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. Her publication experience includes "You Give Me The Willie's," a series of children's short stories; an educational article in *Newsweek*; and an education article in the *National Teacher/Parent Handbook*. One of her poems was published in *the Desert Sun*, while another will be published in *Best Poems of 1997*.

Jack Rickard, a teacher of American and World History, has received a distinguished teacher award from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, a presidential citation for environmental work in the Grand Canyon in conjunction with the National Parks Service. He is a recipient of a Pablo Neruda prize for poetry from *Nimrod*. He is also an artist of the Southwest, noted for his paintings using a thousand-year-old marbling paper technique.

Kristopher Standley is a full-time advertising manager at Pepperdine University. He enjoys using poetry as a link to his Native American heritage. He finds Sedona, Arizona is an inspiring place for writers, and he tries to visit there often. He has also written two novels and a screenplay.

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